Patricia Hess, a nurse, is working at Seymour Middle School under an agreement between Sevier County Schools and Cherokee Health Systems to provide medical services to students. The telemedicine program is linked via two-way camera to a physician’s assist in Knoxville for instant evaluation of the patient.
Why School-Based Telemedicine?

Children are absent from school for a variety of reasons, but the most common reason is the common cold. It is also not uncommon for a student to miss an extra day or two waiting for a doctor’s appointment and for the parent to miss time from work.

In many communities, especially rural and mountainous regions, there is also the compounding difficulty of a shortage of medical professionals, as well as lack of transportation options for parents, and a number of people without adequate health insurance.

A school-based telemedicine program can help to reduce absenteeism and healthcare cost in your community.

School-Based Telemedicine Reduces Absenteeism, Health Care Costs

A telemedicine program within your school system can allow your school nurse or clinician the ability to connect ill students with health providers.

A school-based telemedicine program can reduce the number of missed classroom hours by diagnosing children without removing them from school. Parents, therefore, miss fewer workdays, because they don’t have to pick up their child from school to take him or her to the doctor.

Benefits:

- School-based telemedicine has shown to minimize missed days at school for children and missed days at work for their parents.

- Children, who can be seen by a health care provider in consultation with a school nurse without having to leave school, save the time and expense of having a visit to the doctor’s office.

- School based telemedicine programs can also lower the overall health care costs by reducing expensive, time consuming visits to the emergency department.

Contact AMD to learn more about implementing a school-based program in your community.

A registered nurse examines a student’s ear with AMD’s ENT Otoscope, a special instrument that allows the nurse practitioner to see the image on the screen and share the image with physicians located outside of the school.